

NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney
Carol C. Lam***

For Further Information, Contact: Assistant U.S. Attorney Melanie K. Pierson (619) 557-5685

For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - September 2, 2004

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that a San Diego couple was indicted by a federal grand jury for smuggling prescription pharmaceuticals into the United States from Mexico. Guillermo Cuevas and Lisa Marie Cuevas were charged with one count of conspiracy, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371, and eight counts of importation of pharmaceuticals contrary to law, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 545.

The indictment alleges that defendants Guillermo and Lisa Cuevas traveled to Mexico and purchased Mexican pharmaceuticals, which were then smuggled into the United States by the defendants and others. According to the indictment, Guillermo Cuevas would telephone his associates in Reedley, Sanger, and Parlier, California, to determine which Mexican pharmaceuticals they wanted to sell, and then Lisa Cuevas would package and ship the smuggled Mexican pharmaceuticals to her husband's associates in Reedley, Sanger and Parlier, California, knowing that they intended to sell them to others.

Also, according to the indictment, the importation of the pharmaceuticals further violated the law in that they were misbranded, unapproved new drugs, manufactured at an unregistered foreign facility, imported without being properly declared, and distributed in interstate commerce without proper licenses.

DEFENDANTS

Criminal Case No. 04-CR-2362-BEN

Lisa Marie Cuevas
San Diego, California

Guillermo R. Cuevas
San Diego, California

SUMMARY OF CHARGES

Count 1: Conspiracy, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371
Maximum Penalty: 5 years in custody and/or \$250,000 fine

Counts 2-9: Importation Contrary to Law, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 545
Maximum Penalty: 5 years in custody and/or \$250,000 fine, per count

AGENCIES

Food and Drug Administration, Office of Criminal Investigation
Immigration and Customs Enforcement

An indictment itself is not evidence that the defendants committed the crimes charged. The defendants are presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.